

**STATEMENT BY  
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**BEFORE THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
COMMITTEE  
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Chairman Chaffetz, Ranking Member Cummings, and distinguished Committee members – Good Morning. Thank you for your invitation to appear today to discuss the construction of the U.S. Embassy in London. I, along with my colleagues at the Department of State, look forward to working with you to examine this issue and illustrate how we are collectively supporting the men and women who serve at this mission with a safer, more secure facility.

As the Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, I work every day with my colleagues to ensure a safe environment for our people. Environments in which we operate today require comprehensive planning, agile decision making, and deft diplomacy. Most of all, they require us to be present, fully engaged, and 100 percent committed to the security of our people and facilities.

The U.S. Embassy in London is an exceptionally important platform for diplomatic and consular engagement to advance our national interests in this country. As you know, I work closely with my colleagues in the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) as the Department builds diplomatic missions that increase safety and security as well as meet rigorous security standards. Concerning the U.S. Embassy in London, DS has worked with OBO throughout the design and construction process to ensure this project would be executed while meeting the security standards.

As you know the threats faced by the Department are ever evolving. In response to this changing environment, DS commits a significant amount of time, effort, and energy towards research and evaluation in order to ensure our facilities are able to combat such threats. The outcome of this innovation provides DS with different designs and different building methodologies that accommodate the Department in these environments.

We owe it to our diplomats, along with our security professionals, in the field to provide them with safe, secure platforms from which they operate. I want to thank Congress for the resources and support that you have provided, and look forward to your continued support in years ahead. Thank you and I will be glad to answer any questions you have.